

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09645 031605Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3988

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FOR AF-EDMONDSON FROM REINHARDT

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ AND MASERU FOR AMB SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: INTER-DELEGATION MEETING DEC 3

1. I LUNCHEDED WITH IVOR RICHARD TODAY AND HE REPORTED HE WAS VERY PLEASED BY THE RESULTS OF THE DEC 3 INTER-DELEGATION MEETING.

2. THE SESSION OPENED WITH SITHOLE'S DELEGATE, MALINDI, PREDICTABLY CALLING FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE RULED BY A PRESIDUM OF CONFERENCE LEADERS (WE ASSUME MALINDI REPEATED SITHOLE'S VIEW THAT DURING THE 15 MONTH TRANSITION EACH OF THE LEADERS OF THE GENEVA DELEGATIONS WOULD CHAIR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN TURN). MUGABE, NKOMO AND THE MUZOREWA DELEGATION QUESTIONED MALINDI CLOSELY AND POINTED UP WEAKNESSES IN HIS SCHEME. MALINDI DEFENDED HIS CASE BUT, GIVEN ITS FLAWS, WAS NOT ENTIRELY CONVINCING.

3. ACCORDING TO RICHARD, THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS THEN TURNED TO A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERM GOVERNMENT PRINCIPLES. THE DISCUSSION WAS LOGICAL, TO THE POINT, AND DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH, THE POINTS OF VIEWS OF EACH DELEGATION CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER TOGETHER.

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4. INCREASINGLY NERVOUS THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS, VAN DER BYL FINALLY CHIMED IN WITH REASONABLY UNHELPFUL AND PROVOCATIVE NOISES. THE NATIONALISTS ANSWERED HIM CLAMLY AND CONTINUED WITH THEIR EXCHANGE.

5. AT 1:00, RICHARD SAID HE BANGED THE GAVEL DOWN AND ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW.

6. ASSESSING THE EVENTS OF THE DAY, RICHARD SAID THAT HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONALISTS. THEIR POSITIONS, HE SAID, ARE COMING TOGETHER. BOTH SITHOLE'S PROPOSAL FOR A PRESIDUM AND MUZOREWA'S CALL FOR ELECTIONS SEEM TO BE SLIPPING TO ONE SIDE. NATIONALISTS' POINTS OF VIEW ARE CONVERGING ON THE NEED FOR A COMPLETE TRANSFER OF POWER DURING THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. WITH SEVERAL MORE ROUNDS LIKE THE ONE TODAY, AND BY NO LATER THAN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK, RICHARD BELIEVES HE WILL HAVE A CONCERTED NATIONALIST POINT OF VIEW. THE RHODESIANS, HE ADDED, HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THEY ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE NATIONALIST CASE OR ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

7. I UNDERSTAND UPON LEAVING THE CONFERENCE, VAN DER BYL ATTACKED THE PROCEEDINGS IN FAIRLY VOCIFEROUS TERMS. HE WILL CALL ON RICHARD AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIONALISTS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840099-0842
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacnnz.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: INTER-DELEGATION MEETING DEC 3
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, (RICHARD, IVOR)
To: STATE SS LONDON MASERU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006